

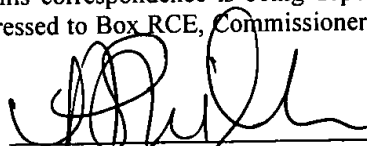


PATENT

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October 29, 2001

  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Attorney Docket No. : 501082.13 (98-0616.12)

Serial No. : 09/652,968

Group Art Unit : 2815

Filed : August 31, 2000

Examiner : Jose R. Diaz

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

Box RCE  
Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 43, 44, 76 and 77 as follows:

43. (Amended) A method of passivating a multiplayer conductive structure, comprising:
- layering a first conductive material;
  - introducing a selection of  $N_2/H_2$ ,  $N_2$ , and  $NH_3$  plasma to said first conductive material;
  - releasing nitrogen from said plasma with electromagnetic energy;
  - and

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